Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-01 NSC-05 OES-03 CCO-00 OTPE-00

EB-07 FCC-01 OC-05 COME-00 BIB-01 IO-11 OCL-00 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /078 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:HAENGELBRECHT/BLEVIN:EB/TT/TD:JO'NEILL:B APPROVED BY EA:WHGLEYSTEEN, JR.

EA/PRCM - MR. SMITH

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O R 060057Z MAR 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 054858

E.O11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP ETEL TW CH US

SUBJECT: APCAC CONFERENCE -- INTELSAT ISSUE

REF: HONG KONG 2552

1. WHILE WELL-INTENTIONED, WE BELIEVE THAT PROPOSED AMCHAM TAIPEI RESOLUTION PROTESTING POSSIBLE DENIAL OF ROC ACCESS TO INTELSAT COULD BE HIGHLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. PUBLIC RAISING OF ISSUE MIGHT PROVOKE PRC INTO TAKING ACTION NOT ONLY TO OUST ROC FROM INTELSAT, BUT ALSO TO BLOCK CONTINUED ROC ACCESS TO SYSTEM. TO DATE, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT PRC INTENDS TO DO THE LATTER, AND NO HARD EVIDENCE THAT PRC WILL EVEN ATTEMPT ROC OUSTER THIS FALL.

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2. WE HAVE BEEN REVIEWING INTELSAT ISSUE WITH ROC OVER

PAST FEW MONTHS. TO DATE ROC HAS SHOWN WILLINGNESS TO EXPLORE VARIOUS AVENUES WHICH ARE DIRECTED TOWARD PRACTICAL GOAL OF ASSURING CONTINUED ACCESS TO SYSTEM. SHOULD ISSUE NOW BE THRUST INTO GLARE OF PUBLICITY, ROC TOO MAY FEEL COMPELLED TO APPROACH IT ON GROUNDS OF PRINCIPLE. UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGES OF SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME WOULD BE VIRTUALLY NIL.

- 3. WE THEREFORE REQUEST THAT YOU INFORM AMCHAM TAIPEI THAT WHILE DEPT UNDERSTANDS AND SYMPATHIZES WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF ITS PROPOSED RESOLUTION, IT BELIEVES THAT USG AND AMERICAN BUSINESS INTERESTS WOULD BE MUCH BETTER SERVED IF ISSUE IS NOT NOW PUBLICLY RAISED.
- 4. YOU CAN ASSURE AMCHAM TAIPEI REPS THAT USG CONSIDERS ACCESS TO INTELSAT BY TAIWAN EARTH STATION OF GREAT IMPORTANCE AND IS WELL AWARE OF INTEREST OF US BUSINESS-MEN IN THIS MATTER. OUR RECOGNITION OF THIS HAS LED TO DISCUSSIONS WITH ROC AS NOTED ABOVE AND WE HAVE ALSO DISCUSSED ISSUE WITH INTELSAT SECRETARY GENERAL. AMCHAM TAIPEI CAN BE FURTHER ASSURED THAT PROPOSED RESOLUTION IS NOT NECESSARY TO STIFFEN USG HANDLING OF ISSUE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO ALL THAT IS POSSIBLE TO PRESERVE ROC'S ACCESS TO SYSTEM. IF ROC CHAMBER WISHES TO GET ITS VIEWS ON RECORD UITH DEPARTMENT, AN ALTERNATE COURSE MIGHT BE FOR ITS PRESIDENT TO WRITE A LETTER. THIS IS AN ACTION WHICH CAN BE DONE QUIETLY AND BE JUST AS EFFECTIVE IN CONVEYING ORGANIZATION'S VIEWS.
- 5. AS BACKGROUND INFORMATION, GROC IS MEMBER OF INTELSAT ORGANIZATION AND HAS EARTH STATIONS ON TAIWAN THAT HAVE ACCESS TO INTELSAT SATELLITES. PRC IS NOT RPT NOT MEMBER BUT ALSO HAS EARTH STATIONS THAT HAVE ACCESS TO INTELSAT SATELLITES. ACCESS BY NON-MEMBERS IS PERMITTED UNDER INTELSAT AGREEMENT.

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To: HONG KONG

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